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**Leaflet Regarding Rules of Publication.**—CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE has prepared a leaflet explaining its rules regarding publication. This leaflet gives suggestions on the preparation of manuscripts and of illustrations. It is suggested that contributors to this Journal write to its office requesting a copy of this leaflet.

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## EDITORIALS†

### MORE CONCERNING MEDICAL MOBILIZATION: COÖPERATION IMPORTANT

**Appointment of a National Committee on Medical Preparedness.**—At the meeting held on June 29, the Council appointed its chairman, Dr. Philip K. Gilman of San Francisco, to represent the California Medical Association in carrying through plans for medical preparedness now being formulated for the United States. Last month, on page 1 of the OFFICIAL JOURNAL, comment was made on the importance of such proper planning, if the Army, Navy, and aviation forces of our country are to be developed and maintained in highest efficiency.

The American Medical Association on June 11, in annual session at New York, through its House of Delegates, authorized the appointment of a national Committee on Medical Preparedness, consisting of ten elected and five ex-officio members to establish and maintain contact and suitable relationship with all governmental agencies concerned with the prevention of disease and the care of the sick, in both civil and military aspects, so as to make available at the earliest possible moment every facility that the American Medical Association can offer for the health and safety of the American people and the maintenance of American democracy.

Dr. Charles A. Dukes of Oakland, past president of the California Medical Association, was honored by election to this important national committee; and on July 19 he flew to Chicago to attend the organization meeting of the committee and to make a progress report for California.

Doctor Philip K. Gilman, as chairman of the California Committee on Medical Preparedness, in coöperation with the district councilors, has appointed a representative for each of the county medical societies, a list of which appears in this issue (on page 86).

\* \* \*

**Questionnaire Blanks Should Be Forwarded at Once.**—A questionnaire blank has been sent by the American Medical Association committee to every physician in the United States. The organized medical profession of the United States can only make good its promise of whole-hearted, 100 per cent coöperation with the military and other authorities of the United States if physicians every-

† Editorials on subjects of scientific and clinical interest, contributed by members of the California Medical Association, are printed in the Editorial Comment column which follows.

where forward to the American Medical Association office, and at an early date, the questionnaire blanks, properly filled in. In requesting such co-operation the national, state, and local Committees on Medical Preparedness seek only to obtain accurate data that will permit the Government to meet to best advantage its military and civil responsibilities in medical care, should certain emergencies arise. Physicians who are tempted to procrastinate or waive these matters aside may well keep in mind that in a real emergency the Government is all-powerful, and that a record of noncoöperation may then be credited with a demerit rather than merit card. Therefore, the California Committee on Medical Preparedness urges members of the California Medical Association to forward the questionnaire blanks as promptly as possible, addressing the same to: American Medical Association Committee on Medical Preparedness, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois.

\* \* \*

**State of California Medical Examining Boards.**—Not to be confused with the activities which the American Medical Association is carrying on in efforts to aid the Federal military services, are those being conducted by the Adjutant General of the State of California, in coöperation with the Committee of Fifty appointed by Governor Culbert Olson. Charles A. Dukes, M. D., of Oakland, was honored by appointment on this committee, which has the name "California State Council of Defense."\*

In the tentative plan, the State was divided into nineteen districts, each district to have a local medical examining board composed of seven members, as follows: a surgeon; an internist; an eye, ear, nose, and throat specialist; an orthopedist; a neuropsychiatrist; a radiologist; a dentist.

The district headquarters will be in the following cities, except that San Francisco will have two, and Los Angeles, six districts: Eureka (1); Redding (1); Sacramento (1); Oakland (1); Napa (1); Stockton (1); San Francisco (2); San Jose (1); Fresno (1); Salinas (1); San Diego (1); Los Angeles (district) (6); Riverside (1).

The district councilors of the California Medical Association and the presidents of the county medical societies have been requested to coöperate in the selection of the personnel for the examining boards. The tentative list of counties composing the various districts is given in this issue, on page 87.

#### "INDEMNITY DEFENSE FUND" OF THE CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

**Origin of the California Indemnity Defense Fund.**—Some twenty-four years ago, on May 20, 1916, the Council of the California Medical Association adopted a resolution whereby "a separate fund, to be known as an 'Indemnity Malpractice Fund,' came into being, intended to provide, as one of its purposes, "the payment of malpractice indemnity judgments and settlements"; the fund "to be raised through voluntary assessment of \$15 yearly for at least two years," and "to give indemnity protection to only those who enter

therein." In accordance therewith, rules and regulations covering the administration of the "Indemnity Defense Fund of the Contributing Members of the Medical Society of the State of California" (the name at that time of the California Medical Association) were adopted; three trustees—Lemuel P. Adams of Oakland, the late A. S. Lobingier of Los Angeles, and the late William Ellery Briggs of Sacramento—being elected to carry on the work. Other trustees included the late Rea Smith of Los Angeles, the late William Duffield of Los Angeles, Howard Morrow of San Francisco, J. B. Harris of Sacramento, and Karl L. Schaupp of San Francisco. Dr. Lemuel P. Adams has been a trustee from the beginning.

\* \* \*

**Discontinuance of the Organization.**—The Fund carried on its work for several years, but an increasing number of malpractice suits (the first wave of what might be termed the existing malpractice sport engaged in by certain persons) led the House of Delegates of the California Medical Association, on June 23, 1923, to pass "a resolution, unanimously adopted: *Resolved*, That the Indemnity Defense Fund be discontinued" . . . ; with a further provision that each member of the Fund be notified. The action taken was printed in the *California State Journal of Medicine* (former name of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE) in the issue of August, 1923 (on pages 344, 351, 434, and 484).

On June 30, 1924, the other legal protection carried on at that time by the State Medical Association, known as "optional" medical defense (which came into existence on May 17, 1922, to take the place of prior medical defense maintained by the State Association), was likewise terminated.

The physicians who voluntarily joined the Indemnity Defense Fund received, for the money paid by them, a comparatively large return of protection—at least when judged by the cost of present-day malpractice defense premiums. The majority of members in 1931 assigned their residual interests in the Fund to the nonprofit corporation, the "Trustees Of The California Medical Association," which body, by recent action of the Council, has assumed custodial care of the Indemnity Defense Fund.

\* \* \*

**Proposed Termination of the Fund.**—In order to be in position to terminate the Indemnity Defense Fund, the Council last year authorized the purchase of a certificate of insurance from Lloyd's of London for a period of five years, from January 15, 1940; and on June 29 last, the Council further ratified procedures for the proper distribution of the Fund, in which at the present time the nonprofit corporation, or holding company of the California Medical Association, the "Trustees Of The California Medical Association," has the major interest. These comments are made, not only for the information of present members of the State Association, but particularly for those of the Indemnity Defense Fund who, in 1931, failed to assign their respective interests, and who will shortly receive further information on the subject.

\* Additional comment on page 87.